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C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 000755

SIPDIS

STATE FOR G/TIP, AF, AF/E, AND DRL

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TAGS: [KCRM](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [DJ](#)

SUBJECT: TIP ACTION PLAN: MEETING WITH DIRECTOR BILATERAL AFFAIRS

REF: A. DJIBOUTI 708

[1](#)B. STATE 136521

Classified By: Pol/Econ Erinn C. Stott for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (C) Pol/Econ met with Director of Bilateral Relations, Mohamed Ali Hassan, on 28 July to follow up on the Trafficking in Persons action plan demarched to Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mahamoud Ali Youssouf (reftel A). Hassan said he had a chance to review the action plan and demarche submitted to the Minister by Ambassador. He commented that he was distressed by the TIP report because he worries the report indicated there is a chain of trafficking through or ending in Djibouti. He said he did not believe that this is the case. Hassan said he also felt the report implied that the Djiboutian government is involved in this trafficking by doing nothing to stop it.

[1](#)2. (C) Hassan continued that Djibouti's main problem stems in immigration controls. He commented that illegal immigration is where all the prostitutes come from. Djibouti is working with the U.S., he said, on its border security, but there is still work to be done. Hassan stated Djibouti already has cooperation with its neighbors to discuss all things related to borders and immigration. Djibouti is working with its neighbors to find a way to regularize the numerous illegal immigrants resident in Djibouti for decades, but, he said, there must be research done to be sure that their claims of long-term residency are true. In addition, Djibouti has bilateral discussions to arrange the legal procedures for extradition with its neighbors. Pol/Econ suggested that since Djibouti already has bilateral commissions with its neighbors, it could easily add Trafficking in Persons as a topic for debate, thus fulfilling one point in the action plan. Hassan said Djibouti was perfectly willing to raise this issue in its bilateral commissions. He added, however, the difficulty would be determining whether its neighbors would in turn be willing to discuss Trafficking and act upon the commissions discussions.

[1](#)3. (C) Hassan also noted that Trafficking in most senses is not documented to exist in Djibouti. He continued that many times the women working as prostitutes come to Djibouti to find jobs on their own and end up working as prostitutes. This is not an organized thing. Pol/Econ emphasized that this is where trafficking becomes a murky issue, and it is not always clear who is or is not a trafficking victim. She gave Hassan several fact sheets on trafficking and how to identify victims. She added that this particular issue is another excellent opportunity to work against trafficking through a public awareness campaign. By educating the public, the government can help arm the Djiboutian and immigrant women with the knowledge to recognize potential trafficking situations and how to assert their rights. Hassan said Djibouti is of course willing to consider this option.

[1](#)4. (C) Pol/Econ asked Hassan about the ratification of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which she noticed was on April 20, 2005. She inquired whether this convention was considered law for Djibouti. She said she would ask the Trafficking in Persons office in Washington whether, if this law was in force in Djibouti, it could serve as a national law, one of the steps in the action plan proposed to the Djiboutian government. Hassan said he would look into it and was eager to continue working on this issue.

RAGSDALE